

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 1, line 15, with the following amended paragraph.

The present application is based on claims the benefit of provisional patent application serial number 60/178,910, filed January 26, 2000, by Xinhui Niu and Nickhil Harshavardhan Jakatdar, entitled Cached Coupled Wave Method for Diffraction Grating Profiled Analysis.